

# AHM AMES HISTORY MUSEUM

**Ames Historical Society has a new name and new look!**

*Discovering our history, Preserving our past, Sharing our stories.*

## Upcoming Dates to Remember

**Thu., November 28 to Sat., November 30**

Museum closed for Thanksgiving.

**Sat., December 7**

Old Fashioned Christmas at the Museum →

**Sat., December 7 and Sun., December 8**



Enjoy the festivities of the holidays by touring beautiful homes throughout Ames and supporting four non-profits in our community. This year's **Altrusa Holiday Home Tour** will showcase five homes from 1 to 5 pm both days. Tickets are \$15 in advance, \$20 at the door and may be purchased at Coe's Floral, Mary Kay's Flowers, Evert's Flowers & Gifts and from Altrusa members. Proceeds from the tour will benefit the Ames History Museum, ChildServe, Mid-Iowa Community Action, Inc. and Days for Girls Sewing Team.

The following have opened their homes this year:

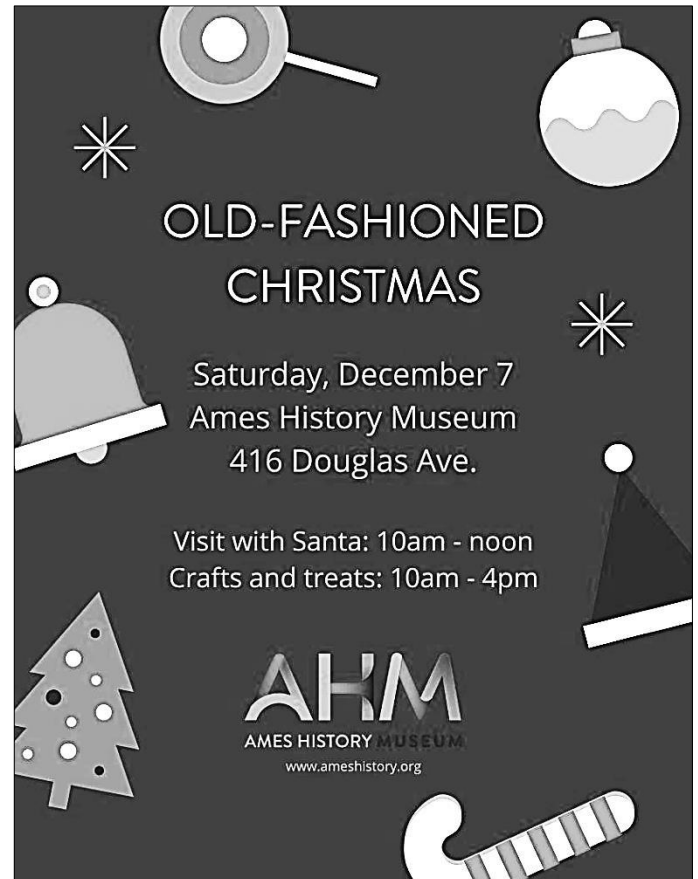
- Betty Beisker - 1216 Ridgewood Ave.
- Jody & Jim Atwood - 2363 170th Street
- Mindy & Patrick Bergstrom - 4310 Ballantine Drive
- Meg Davis & Jeremy Fields - 714 Brookridge Ave.
- Betty & John Boccella - 4613 Clemens Blvd.

**Tue., December 24 and Wed., December 25**

Museum closed for the holiday.

**Fri., December 27**

In conjunction with the annual **Ames High All-Classes Alumni Holiday Reunion**, the Museum is again hosting a special alumni reception from 5 to 7 p.m. on Friday, December 27<sup>th</sup> at 416 Douglas. Come join classmates and other young and "older" high school alums to see the latest popular exhibit, *UNCORKED: The Spirited History of Alcohol in Ames*. Drinks and refreshments will be served. The reunion continues at North Cyde Kitchen & Keg, 823 Wheeler Street, starting at 7 pm.



## 2020 Museum Lecture Series

**Wed. March 25:** Leading the Charge For The 19th Amendment: Iowa And Midwestern Women Leaders In the Fight For The Vote

**Note:** Annual Meeting at 6:30 will precede lecture.

**Tue. April 28:** Iowa Almanac

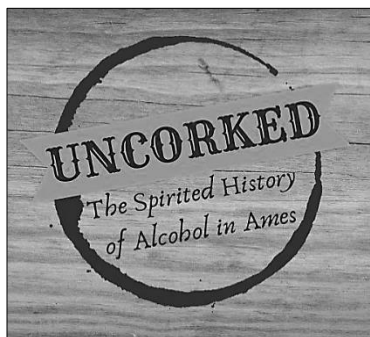
**Wed. May 20:** Prohibition In Iowa

**Tue. June 23:** The Story County Courthouse Fight, 1864 to 1875

All lectures will again take place at Ames Public Library Auditorium, 515 Douglas Avenue, at 7 pm. Presented in partnership with Ames Public Library.

## On View Now at the Museum

### 'Uncorked' Exhibit Continues



**Uncorked: The Spirited History of Alcohol in Ames** reveals the often controversial story of 'spirited' beverages in our town through time.

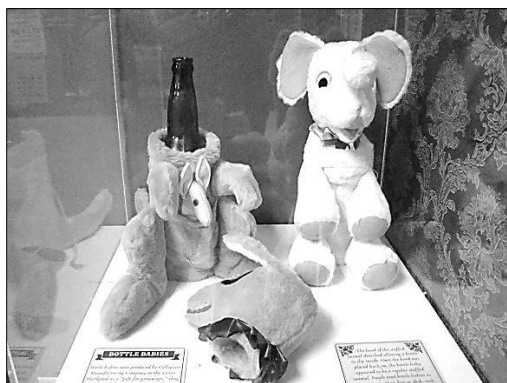
A hundred years ago, on January 17, 1920, the National Prohibition Act went into effect, making the United States a

'dry' country for the next thirteen years. Although there are many good bootlegging tales, the story of alcohol and its impact on the Ames community is much larger than just the story of Prohibition. The exhibit continues to early June 2020.

From the founding of Ames as a dry town to modern-era microbreweries and VEISHEA disturbances, there are unique alcohol-related stories throughout the history of our community. The stories told in this exhibit show the complex relationship Ames has had with alcohol over time.

#### Exhibit highlights:

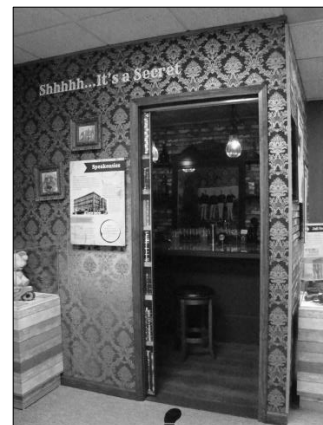
- ♦ Secret speakeasy
- ♦ Water bottle on loan from the Billy Sunday Home Museum in Winona Lake, Indiana (Sunday strongly opposed the use of alcohol)
- ♦ The story of women running a saloon out of town
- ♦ "Was it legal?" interactive quiz about Prohibition
- ♦ Short videos to watch – including Billy Sunday doing an energetic anti-alcohol speech.



Though not produced until well after Prohibition ended, Collegiate Manufacturing's 'Bottle Babies' would have been an excellent place to stash an illegal bottle! An array of other unique artifacts is featured.



The wall quote says: "Prohibition is in the Federal Constitution to stay. It will remain in the Constitution as long as the government stands." *Wayne B. Wheeler, Leader of the Anti-Saloon League*. Sliding panels allow visitors to test their Prohibition knowledge.



One corner features a speakeasy – hidden behind what looks like a library shelf of books!



Sliding open the 'library' door reveals a cozy bar with jazzy music, flyers to read and typical serving wares.

### Grateful! Our Benefit Wrap-Up



The 132 museum supporters who attended our Annual Benefit on August 24 created a festive party atmosphere with 1920s themed costumes and high enthusiasm! The Benefit was the best yet and netted \$11,917.95. In addition to event tickets, funds were generated by a raffle and a live auction. New this year, was a call for donations to support specific needs. The staff was thrilled to receive funding for a specialized book scanner, children's programming at Hoggatt School, collections storage, a subscription to newspaperarchive.com and all of the remaining Polk Directories that were missing. Our most grateful thanks go to all who attended and contributed!

**Raffle donors:** ACTORS, Ames Silversmithing, Bar La Tosca, Burgie's Coffee & Tea Co., Evert's Flowers Home & Gifts, Fareway Meat & Grocery, The Filling Station, First National Bank, Gilger Designs, Great Plains Sauce & Dough Company, Hickory Park Restaurant Co, Holub Garden & Greenhouses, Hy-Vee Drugstore, Wheatsfield Co-op, Mary Greeley Medical Center Auxiliary Gift Shop, Mary Kay's Flowers, North Cyde Kitchen & Kegs, Photosynthesis, Prairie Moon Winery.

**Auction donors:** Iowa State Center show tickets, original artwork by Linda Emmerson, Stewart Buck, Kay Wall and Sticks, handmade quilt by Elaine DeKovic, dinner party hosted by chefs Terry Lowman and Mark Kassis, Iowa State football and basketball tickets.

**Event sponsors:** Ames Convention & Visitors Bureau Community Grant Program, Northcrest Community, Fred & Carol Hoiberg, Fifth Street Dental, Ames High School Alumni Association.



Attendees enjoyed a 1920s dance demonstration.



Prairie Moon Winery's big main room was the perfect backdrop for our Prohibition-era-themed party.



A thrilled raffle winner holds up the metal etched image of 1870s Ames donated by PhotoSynthesis.

### Farwell T. Brown Award: Mary Atherly

The annual award for exceptional service to the Ames History Museum went to Mary Atherly. Mary joined the Society's board in 2008 after retiring from Iowa State University. She brought invaluable experience from her years at University Museums where she was curator of the Farmhouse Museum and author of a book on its history. Mary served as Museum board co-president from 2012 to 2017 and was on the



Collections Committee. She spent countless hours using her experience and skills to help former curator Dennis Wendell catalogue and label artifacts. While co-president, she handled diverse projects from collections to fundraising to writing the employee manual. The Society benefited enormously from her intelligence, professional knowledge, time, energy and commitment. Sadly, Mary passed away on October 21. We were so pleased that one of her last outings was to the Annual Benefit – in 1920s costume, no less!

*Mary, above, right, with Sharon Wirth*

### Ames History Maker Award: The Extended Buck Family

The Ames History Maker Award honors an individual, company, organization or family that has had an impact on the history of Ames.

H.G. Buck moved to Ames in 1922 and began practicing dentistry. In 1924, he married Margaret Mason and opened his own dental practice at 313 ½ Main Street. The couple had four sons: Bill, Jim, Bob and Ben. Bill, Jim and Ben all worked at the dental office. In 1955, the office moved to 616 Fifth Street; it was sold in 1997 and now operates under the name Fifth Street Dental.

Bob started a construction company with his wife, Anne, in 1961. Over the next 40 years, Buck Construction built 254 custom homes in Ames and remodeled interiors or built additions for 4,000 Ames homes.

H.G. and Margaret's four sons and 11 grandchildren were all raised in Ames and graduated from Ames High School. Members of the family have been very involved in a number of local organizations, creating a long-lasting impact on the community.



Many members of the Buck family were in attendance. Stew Buck accepted the award for the family and told an engaging story of the family's history.

### Appealing To You

Members have received our annual appeal letter with a "numbers" page that documents our steady service to the Ames community. The Ames History Museum is a small organization doing a big job with limited resources.



#### Why should you donate? Two reasons:

1) We want to respond to resident requests for more services and 2) we face big challenges.

- Collection storage is at full capacity and additional space is needed.
- There are more demands on our staff, we need to pay them a living wage and we'd like to further expand our programs.
- We occupy half of our building. If we could build our Endowment from \$184,315 to over \$600,000, we could better utilize space we badly need.

Funds from this appeal go to the operating fund but additional donations to the Endowment Fund are welcome.

Donations can be made by check and sent to Ames History Museum, PO Box 821, Ames, Iowa 50010 or by credit card through our website - [ameshistory.org](http://ameshistory.org) - see 'Make a Donation' on our homepage.

### Sweet Memorials

The Museum is so grateful to be designated by **Ellen Landon** and **Mary Atherly** for memorial contributions. Ellen passed away on September 19. Prior to her retirement in 1992, she handled public relations for the City of Ames and was a knowledgeable city history resource. Contributions of \$2,000 from 35 donors will go to the Museum Endowment. Mary Atherly's story is noted on page 3; to date over 30 donations have been received for projects to-be-determined. In their respective roles, both women had measurable impact on our city and will continue to have an impact on the Museum for many years to come.

### Rampage Results

In August, the Museum provided volunteers at Rummage Rampage, ISU's annual sale that takes student and resident discarded-but-usable goods out of the trash stream. The sale this year netted the most ever; proceeds are distributed to the non-profits that provided volunteers. This year, the Museum made \$1,690 for 65.89 hours of work.

### Society Wish List

- **Tools** for creating exhibits: orbital hand sander, shop vac, circular saw, cordless power drill, impact drill, 18 foot multi-position ladder (Little Giant or similar)
- Ames **photos** from 1960s (largely missing from Ames Tribune archive).
- Funds for **archival boxes** (approximately \$13 each), containers we endlessly need.
- Office and building **supplies**: computer printer paper, trash bags, glass cleaner, tissues, etc.

Let us know if you can help by calling 515-232-2148 or emailing [info@ameshistory.org](mailto:info@ameshistory.org).



### Annals of Iowa Now Online

"The Annals of Iowa" is a journal published by the State Historical Society of Iowa. Since 1863, it has featured the best research and writing about the history of our state. With assistance from the University of Iowa, issues of the journal (*except the current subscription year*) starting with 1863 have been made available online and are searchable. These can be accessed free at <https://ir.uiowa.edu/annals-of-iowa/>

### Revisiting Pool Referendums

In the last newsletter, a story about Ames pool referendums contained an error. Please note that the shared municipal pool currently located at the high school opened in **1966**, not 1974.

That story's final paragraph stated, *"It remains to be seen how this year's September 10 vote will come out for the proposed Healthy Life Center which includes several indoor pools. Will the history of failed referendums continue? Or will Ames citizens catch the vision and take a big step forward?"*



For the record, the bond issue for the Healthy Life Center did not pass and the future of public swimming in Ames is once again, unresolved.

### Hard Won, Not Done

Planning is underway for a 2020 grand state-wide 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration of the passage of the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment that gave women the right to vote.

The day-long Ames kick-off will take place on Fri., February 14 at Iowa State University Memorial Union. Among a full-slate of activities that day, Elaine Weiss will give the keynote address in the Great Hall at 1 pm; she is author of *The Woman's Hour*, *The Great Fight to Win the Vote* and is an award-winning journalist and writer. Free to attend.



Programs and exhibits that are open to the public will continue throughout the year. Ames Public Library will devote their Jan. 9 'Real Reads' session to Weiss's book (7pm). The Museum's March 25 lecture ties in to the centennial and the next exhibit opening in June 2020 will center on stories of remarkable Ames women.

For more information about Ames events and others throughout Iowa, go to <https://19th-amendment-centennial.org>.

### Remembering Stephen A. Rushing

*As we pass another Veterans Day, we remember a young Ames man who lost his life in service to his country. His story was read as part of the 2007 Gold Star ceremony at the ISU Memorial Union.*

Stephen Abram Rushing grew up in Live Oak, Florida, the oldest of four children – two boys, two girls. In



1965 his father joined the National Animal Disease Laboratory and the family moved to Ames. That same year, Steve and his younger brother Michael proudly earned their Eagle Scout badges. Although Michael

ended up being taller than Steve, he was never conscious of the height difference because he always looked up to his older brother.

Being a newcomer to Ames High School as a junior did not discourage Steve from diving into activities: football, track, cross country, Key Club, and Science Seminar. His senior year he played Einstein in the class play "The Physicists." But the thing that most energized him was being on the Debate Team.

Michael remembers: "Steve was a gregarious person, a talker. You could not get him to stop! On the debate team, sometimes - to underscore a point - he would make up an impressive sounding word that sounded like a real word but didn't really mean anything! He had a huge vocabulary and was probably the smartest one in the family. When Steve wasn't talking or sleeping, he devoured books, eager to learn everything he could. He also loved poetry, especially T.S. Elliott and Robert Frost.

A Florida cousin – also Steve Rushing – was a judge. When they got together, you couldn't get a word in edgewise. Iowa Steve was a liberal, Florida Steve was a conservative. Their debates would go on and on!"

His mother commented that he learned to drive but never got his license. He preferred waiting for and riding the bus because it gave him more time to read.

A high school friend described him as a "silly, gentle soul who would engage in contests of eating mustard by the spoonful or munching down lemon wedges." Another said, "I remember Steve moving to Ames but

staying a Southerner at heart. He would stand at attention when the choir sang "Dixie!"

Steve started at Iowa State in Fall 1967 and attended classes to Fall 1968. It's no surprise that he declared Philosophy as a major. He lived in the basement of St. John's Episcopal Church and did set-ups for the parish in between attending classes.

The Vietnam War was underway and many young men his age were being drafted. It was a time of turmoil and fear for those who were of age. Steve did not know anyone in the military and thought of himself as a pacifist. He did not support the endeavor in Southeast Asia. But, despite these convictions, he felt that it was not inherently fair that he had a college deferment from the draft while others had to go.



Without telling his family, he dropped out of college, failing to register but staying on campus into fall 1968 to attend lectures, carrying on as if he were a student. His mother paid his tuition and was aghast when ISU returned the check, saying he wasn't registered. Before long, the draft board noticed and he was called up. He

entered basic training in 1969. Steve wasn't happy about being in the Army, but he was dedicated, quickly attaining the rank of Sergeant.

He landed in Vietnam on May 18, 1970 and hoped for an early out. He was eager to get back to college and instructed his parents to get him registered for the 1971 spring quarter. Barely six weeks later on July 30, 1970, he was fatally wounded by hostile small arms fire in Binh Dinh province. He was 20 years old.

Michael commented on the intensity with which Steve talked and read and lived, "It's as if he somehow knew he wasn't going to live that long and needed to pack in a lot of living in a short time."

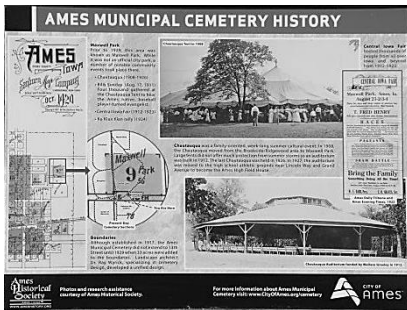
As Steve was leaving for Vietnam, his Dad, Buck, started growing a beard, declaring that he wasn't going to shave until Steve came home. Mrs. Rushing commented that the beard stayed on for a long time.

In Steve's honor, please read Frost's poem, *Birches*.



## New Historical Marker

Joining full-color historical markers at the Depot, Hoggatt School and the site of Carr's Pool is one at the



Ames Municipal Cemetery. A small plaza with seating is nearby. The Museum and the Ames Parks and Recreation Department is overseeing the marker projects.

## Ralph Bennett Returns Home



On August 3, a touching ceremony took place at the Ames Municipal Cemetery. Seventy-five years after he died in the China-Burma-India Theater during WW2, Cpl. Ralph Bennett's remains were returned for burial to his hometown. Until 2018, his unidentified body was buried with the unknowns in

Hawaii's Punchbowl, the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific. Through the miracle of DNA and the cooperation of Ralph's extended family, his remains were positively identified earlier this year, bringing closure to a family that for decades has clung to the hope that he would be found. An honor guard accompanied him from the Des Moines airport and the over-passes on I35 were lined with flags and people silently saluting as he passed. He was AHS Cl. of '42.



## Good News

All 106 Shared Stories that have been recorded are now online on YouTube, as well as 43 of our lectures (that were of sufficient quality) and 13 documentaries, including those done by Teresa Larson and Farwell Brown. Search 'Ames Historical Society' on YouTube. Also - the transcriptions of Shared Stories interviews are on file at the Museum and may be viewed during open hours or checked out for use at home.

## Shared Stories



The Museum's oral history project known as 'Shared Stories' was taken on by Teresa Larson after the passing of its originator, Rollie Struss. TJ, as she is known, and her 'stories' partner, Barb Munson, have recently retired after wrapping up the last few interviews and transcriptions.



We would like to recognize and publically thank TJ and Barb for the excellence they brought to this endeavor. TJ's years as a public broadcaster and Barb's technique as a transcriber brought special skills to the task. Some truly amazing people were captured on camera.

*TJ says, "I have chatted with people I know and now know better or talked with people I had never met and now see Ames in a little different light. It was gratifying to use my media experience to collect stories that might otherwise have gone unreported. Thank you for the opportunity to create this very unique resource."*

If there are Museum members who would be interested in continuing Shared Stories, an orientation can be provided as well as the video equipment. Call the Museum to find out more: 515-232-2148.

### Ames History Museum Board:

**President:** Sharon Wirth

**Vice-President:** Peter Hallock

**Secretary:** Lynette Spicer

**Treasurer:** Ken Cameron

Don Beitz, Bob Bourne, Wayne Clinton, Dan Franklin, Eric Hoiberg, Becky Jordan, Mary Logsdon, Bonnie Norman, Jim Popken, Ryan Riley. Monthly Board meetings are the 2nd Thursday, 6:45 pm at 416 Douglas.

Members welcome!

### Museum Staff:

**Collections Mgr:** Carly Hlubek

**Executive Director:** Casie Vance

**Research & Exhibits Mgr:** Alex Fejfar

**Emeritus Staff:** Alan Spohnheimer, Margaret Vance, Dennis Wendell

The Ames History Museum is an incorporated, 501c3 not-for-profit organization whose mission is to engage our diverse public and provide unique opportunities to learn about Ames history.

**Museum:** 416 Douglas, Ames, IA 50010

**Hours:** Tue. - Sat. 10 am - 4 pm

**Mail:** PO Box 821, Ames, IA 50010

**Phone:** 515-232-2148

**E-mail:** info@ameshistory.org

**Website:** www.AmesHistory.org

**Facebook:** www.facebook.com/ameshistoricalsociety

Search 'Ames Historical Society' on **Instagram** and **YouTube**

The **newsletter** is published four times a year for Museum members. Direct comments and questions to: Editor, PO Box 821, Ames, IA 50010 or e-mail above. Editor: Kathy Svec

**Hoggatt School** is located on the grounds of Meeker School at 18<sup>th</sup> and Burnett, Ames, IA. Closed November to March.

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PO Box 821  
Ames, Iowa 50010

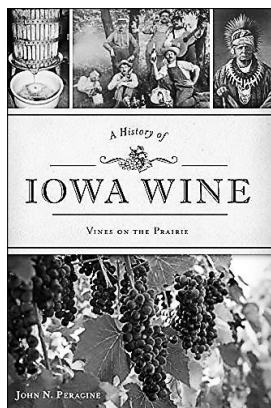
Non-Profit Org  
US Postage  
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Permit #122  
Ames, Iowa 50010

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## Museum Shop

**MOST ITEMS IN OUR MUSEUM SHOP  
ARE 10% OFF IN NOVEMBER & DECEMBER!**

Great holiday gifts include hand-thrown pottery mugs, books, t-shirts, Dinkey holiday ornaments, games and more! Many unique Ames-related items. Stuff for both kids and adults.



**New title!**



**New 'Uncorked' mug!**

Members get 15% off gift shop items all year!  
(does not stack with holiday sale)

Open hours: Tuesday-Saturday, 10 am to 4 pm



The gala opening of 'Uncorked' was well-attended, with viewers sometimes shoulder-to-shoulder in our compact exhibit space!

### Is it time to renew your membership?

Renewals are due on the one-year anniversary of last year's payment. Check this newsletter's label (above your name) for the date yours is due. Memberships fund the day-to-day operations of the Museum, so we can continue to be a valued community resource. Now – pay online on our website!

<b>Introductory - 1st year</b>	<b>\$15</b>	<b>Partner</b>	<b>\$250</b>
<b>Basic</b>	<b>\$30</b>	<b>Benefactor</b>	<b>\$500</b>
<b>Friend</b>	<b>\$50</b>	<b>Patron</b>	<b>\$1,000</b>
<b>Sustaining</b>	<b>\$100</b>		

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

**Ames History Museum, PO Box 821, Ames, IA 50010**